

Appl. No. 10/079611
Amdt. Dated Feb. 4, 2004
Reply to Office action of Nov. 4, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (canceled)

2. (previously presented) The pipe member according to claim 8, wherein an end of the multiple-pipe structure section is provided with a tapered section of which the amount of diameter expansion gradually increases.

3. (previously presented) The pipe member according to claim 8, wherein one metal pipe forming the multiple pipes is of a different material than the other metal pipes.

4. (previously presented) The pipe member according to claim 8, wherein one metal pipe forming the multiple pipes is made of aluminum and the other metal pipes are made of steels.

5-6 (canceled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) A pipe member having metal pipes of different diameters, said pipe member prepared by a process comprising:

moving one of a metal pipe of a larger diameter and shorter length and a metal pipe of a smaller diameter and longer length, said metal pipe of a smaller diameter having an outside, said metal pipe of a larger diameter engaging the outside of the metal pipe of the smaller diameter to provide a multiple pipe structure in a predetermined area in a longitudinal direction; and

expanding integrally at least a portion of only the multiple pipe structure to expand a diameter of the multiple pipe structure.

9. (previously presented) A method for making a pipe member from metal pipes having different diameters, comprising:

moving one of a metal pipe of a larger diameter and shorter length and a metal pipe of a smaller diameter and longer length, said metal pipe of a smaller diameter having an outside, said metal pipe of a larger diameter engaging the outside of the metal pipe of the smaller diameter to provide a multiple pipe structure in a predetermined area in a longitudinal direction; and

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c' expanding integrally at least a portion of only the multiple pipe structure to expand a diameter of the multiple pipe structure.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)
